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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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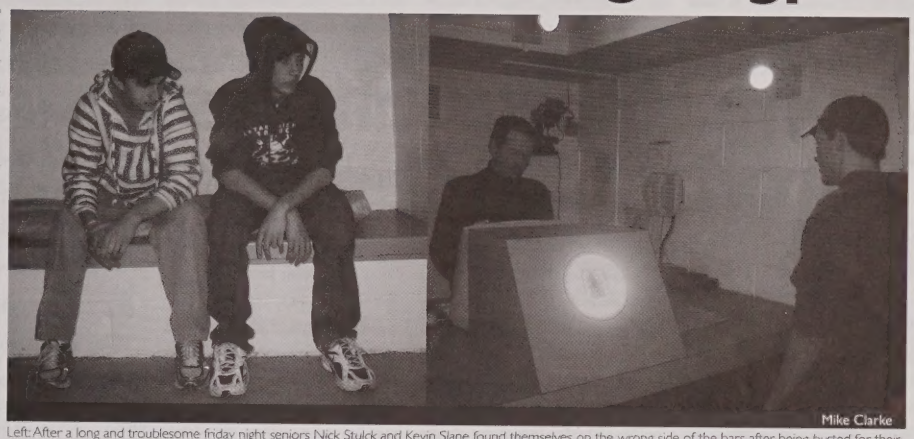
Clever Cops Capture Elusive Coning Kingpins

By Al Iturayshun

After all the planning, all the evidence-gathering, and all the build-up, the Lexington Police were left at a loss. They had raided the house of notorious coner Kevin "the Godfather" Slane, and had found plenty of construction paraphernalia, but Slane was nowhere to be found. Instead, Slane was arrested at Lexington High School, bringing a dramatic end to what police are calling "a major capture." "This man is considered one of the most dangerous coning operatives in the town of Lexington," surmised Police Chief Christopher Casey. In the raid on Slane's house, police found over 75 cones, 8 barrels, 4 sawhorses, and 1 giant roll of Caution Tape.

Although police have been attempting to apprehend Slane for years, he has always eluded capture. The founder of the "Coning Posse," a mysterious group which counts over 70 members, Slane runs with a rough crew of kids, who every weekend without fail cone the living daylights out of someone. Coning has long been a controversial issue amongst Lexington residents. "Personally, I see no problem with it," said student Max Alsgard-Miller. "It keeps kids from getting into more trouble. I'd rather see kids moving construction material around and playing jokes on their friends than doing drugs or robbing banks." Some, however, do not share Miller's positive outlook. "I for one am glad that Slane has been captured," said concerned parent Marianne McKenna. "In my day, kids had wooden toys and color television as ways to have



Mike Clarke

Left: After a long and troublesome friday night seniors Nick Stulck and Kevin Slane found themselves on the wrong side of the bars after being busted for their participation in a widespread Lexington coning ring. Right: Kevin Slane resigns himself to an intense round of questioning by

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Dr. Jones Moonlighting as Famous Rap Artist

By Harry Pitts

The news spread like wildfire. Within a day, the entire school had heard about it. Dr. Jones had decided to replace all water fountains with "crunk goblets" full of Hennessey and Courvoisier. This, following Jones' drastic changes to school dress code and his untimely change of the school fight song to "Get Low" by Lil Jon and the Eastside Boyz had led to speculation that the principal had not been forthright about his other occupations. Finally, on Tuesday, Dr. announced what much of the school body had long speculated; he had been leading a double life. While most people are content holding down one job, Dr Michael Jones has also been producing and recording music as Houston rapper Mike Jones. Many are familiar with Jones' hits, including "flossin'," "cuttin'," and "still tippin'."

The reactions have varied greatly amongst the school body, ranging from outrage to awestruck reverence. "I love Mike Jones!" raved senior Mike Guttag. "Ever since he spent the budget money on chrome rims for all the school buses, I've been riding to school in style!" Others, however, were not so thrilled with this revelation. "Personally, I cannot understand how he is still holding on to his job," lamented English teacher Nathan Johnson, "Instead of attending school committee meetings; he goes and buys himself a Bentley. Instead of closing the school for a snow day, he just rolls over in his Hummer and opens it anyways! I, for one, am sick of it." Jones, who declined to comment without conferring with his posse first, took a different outlook. "Yo, the way I see it, I'm just showin' this school how to get down. Besides, I'm a millionaire, so I might as well have some fun with this job."

However, all is not fun and games in the world of rap. On Thursday, Jones fired administrators David Lautman and George Mechem, replacing them with fellow Houston rappers Chamillionaire and Paul Wall. When asked about the qualifications, Jones was unable to provide any, other than maintaining that both Chamillionaire and Wall had "mad street cred." Whether this will stand the scrutiny of the school committee remains to be seen. While the community has largely remained silent on the recent appointments, others from outside the Lexington community haven't been so bashful. Rapper 50 Cent was unhappy with this movement, pointing out that "I be reppin' the east coast, and I don't' like seeing no upstart rookies from the Dirty South comin' in here and steppin' all over my turf!" Renowned producers and entrepreneurs Diddy and Jay-Z shared similar concerns, hoping that "things don't escalate." Speaking for the town of Lexington at large, town manager Richard White agreed yesterday. "Lexington has long prided itself on its safety and security, and Jones' has endangered that safety with his thoughtless beefs and feuds. I think I speak for many when I say that I hope not a single cap is busted, and that all parties resolve their differences peacefully."

Even if Jones is forced to abdicate his position, he has left an indelible mark on Lexington High School. His replacement of the school librarians with supermodels has been a rousing success for all involved, and the way that he always began every announcement with "yo this is the remix" was always a lot of fun. Said Superintendent Paul Ash, "While many have questioned Dr. Jones' moves, he will always be accepted in the Lexington community by all, as long as he gives me a shout-out on his new album."

Sword Fighting Clubs Could Duke It Out Anytime Soon

By Josiah Reibstein

Everyone knows who they are. It's commonplace to see them practicing their moves after school on Tuesday in Commons II, sometimes uttering their trademark battle cries. They're recognizable only by their soft rubber swords, which often hang from backpacks or belts, and they answer to no one except one another. They are the members of the sword-fighting club, an elite martial arts organization that has existed for about three years. And they are not to be trifled with.

"Frankly, I'm scared to death of them," said Senior Tom Irving. "This one time, a few years ago, a few of us went over to challenge them to a duel. I thought I could take it, but don't let anyone tell you that rubber doesn't hurt."

Recently, the Rubber Sword Club (RSC) has been facing some competition. A new branch of fighters has emerged from the shadows: Wooden Sword Club. Established this year, this skilled group of warriors can often be glimpsed matching wits against one another. Instead of battling it out with rubber, they use weapons made of the finest carved pine tree. Not surprisingly, the appearance of the Wood Sword Club, or, Woodsmen, as they like to be called, has generated significant animosity from the RSC.

"We were here first," says Martin Mendelbaum, a veteran of the RSC. "I don't know what they think they're doing, starting a new club involving swords. Rubber is the way of the future - swift, precise, and lethal. The Rubbers shall dominate, as always." But Freshman Antonin Berkowitz of the Woodsmen disagrees. "This noble sport of sword-fighting originated with caveman battling eachother with twigs and branches. Rubber seems sort of new-age to me, and we would rather go back to the roots."

The tensions beginning to burrow their way into the skins of both parties will not be silenced with that single sentiment. It appears that a standoff will take place in the near future.

"It's gonna be a rumble," said freshman Dan Fitzpatrick, a newcomer to the Woodsmen. "Both gangs are gonna go head-in. If someone gets stuck, someone'll get stuck. But there's only one way to show who's in charge, and this is it."

Junior Liam Toddwell of the RSC is frightened of what might happen, however. "Anything could go wrong. The slightest bit of humidity makes the wooden swords swell, and increased surface area can only mean one thing: increased pain."

Whether the battle occurs or not, many students are looking forward to it. "Man, I can't wait," said Senior Josh Evans. "I always like to watch them go at it before jazz ensemble on Tuesday. But with two groups? Man,

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Volcanoes, Drugs, Lingerie and Religion

By Hugh Jass and Eric Shin

The regional science fair was held at Cape Cod Community College on April 1st, and featured a wide spectrum of projects. Students came from all over New England to compete for the impressive fifteen dollar first place award. Projects included "The effects of Jello consumption in Bacterius mantanueas foresensia carleusinet rapae," "The Intricacies of Creating Crystal Methane," "Viagra for women v. Ortho-tricyclin on Men," "Holla back my dawgs (a project on dogs and their hearing)," and "The Effects of Pornography on Depression."

Mr. Pompass, a teacher from Philips Exeter Academy, stated that "these projects are first rate; it is hard to imagine why the Nobel Committee did not come to review these projects." He added, "I definitely see many Nobel Prize winning projects in the crowd. There are certainly some failed projects, like 'Herbicidal defenses from the impending Bird Flu attack on all of Humanity,' but like I said, the amazing quality of the other projects in this field is truly noteworthy."

There were many engineering projects also present, including "A Structural Analysis of the Wireless Ipex vs. the Jock Strap," and "Reconstructing the structure of the Armpits using robotic techniques."

A new field added to the Science Fair was that of Anthropology and Behavioral Science. Projects in this field were very insightful and included "Stress: Does it exist?" as well as "Anger Management: Will shocking help?" The Religion and Science field was yet another new addition to the Science Fair roster.

Projects showcased in this category sought to prove the existence of God through scientific methods. One prize winning experiment focused on "converting sinners (prostitutes, cheaters, murderers and gluttonous beings) by exposing them to the Holy objects."

The winners were announced at Harvard, a truly appropriate backdrop

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Animal Gang Cultures Terrorize LHS Campus

By Ivana Teenkal

You've seen them on campus. "The Dog Boys," so-called after their floppy ears, long tails, and rubber dog noses they wear to school every day, have sparked debate among LHS administrative officials. The original LHS gang, known for its intimidating bark, is now on every faculty member's watch list. Last week, Dr. Jones's office was broken into and though nothing was stolen, a black paw print was left on the door, signifying the alleged involvement of The Dog Boys.

"These guys are scary," says biology teacher Mr. Pole Pott. "You never know when they'll start barking at you. One of them received a bad grade on his test, and he just barked at me until I agreed to scale it." The teachers are not the only ones affected by such gang-based harassment.

Senior Maxi Padd attests to the fear students live in every day. "It's awful! I never know if it's safe to go into the bathroom or if I'll find that every toilet has been replaced by a fire hydrant! Won't somebody please think of the children!?" Though not all students are so hysterical, most will admit to being at least mildly afraid of the potential canine calamity threatened by this band of students. "I heard they're trying to get dog food served at lunch," observed sophomore James Lame. "That's just gross."

"Dogs are just awesome, you know? Like, they're snuggly and cute but at the same time they're powerful hunters and they could totally rip your head off if they tried. That's what it's about."
-Member, Dog Boys

LHS has had a long-standing tradition of allowing students to wear whatever they want.. Team spirit often requires that student athletes dress in anything from pajamas to suspenders to homemade togas.

However, as LHS's gang wars become a growing problem, the administration is seriously considering instating a dress code, or at least a ban on certain types of "animal dress."

In the wake of this controversy, other groups have begun to spring up all across campus, their animalia ranging from the traditional cats and dogs to the more unusual penguins, monkeys, chickens, and most recently, the wolves.

Most gang members refuse to comment on the particular goings on inside of their secret societies. When asked, most would simply howl, cluck, or bark in the reporter's general direction.

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Mirror on the Wall– Drama Puts New Spin on an Age-Old Classic

By Tess Steckle

In the fall of 2005, the LHS drama department tackled Seussical: the Musical, a colossal flop on Broadway, and twisted Seuss's words into a success on the Lexington stage. Everyone is familiar with Dr. Seuss's children's stories told in heavily metered and rhymed verse. Though Theodore "Seuss" Geisel wrote many children's books, what most people probably do not know is that he was also a political cartoonist in the United States during World War II and that many of his illustrations, published and unpublished, would never find their way into children's stories.

Taking this inspiration, drama director Steven Bogart pulled new meaning out of Dr. Seuss's rhymes to the delight and horror of the audience. After receiving positive feedback, the drama department has decided to examine the more sinister sides of other children's stories. Next fall, LHS will be presenting Dirty-Snow White: The Musical. Based off of the classic Grimm fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves," this musical follows Snow White, the most beautiful girl in all the land, as she is thrown out of her house for seducing her mother's lover.

Her mother was once "Miss Enchanted Forest" beauty pageant winner and she cannot cope with the growing beauty and guiles of her daughter. Barely escaping death at the hands of a woodsman, she stumbles into the home of the seven dwarves. Dying from black lung from long hours in the coalmines near their cottage, these dwarves live by the motto "eat, drink and be merry." All too soon, Snow White falls into the hedonistic lifestyle that the dwarves lead and thus is easily tempted by the drug-addicted witch, her mother in disguise, into eating a laced apple.

Without revealing too much before the curtain even rises, it is rumored that LHS's own Benjamin Cohen, a junior, is personally composing the music for this workshop piece. "It has been really difficult trying to 'work against the magic.' Needless to say, the audience is barely gonna recog-

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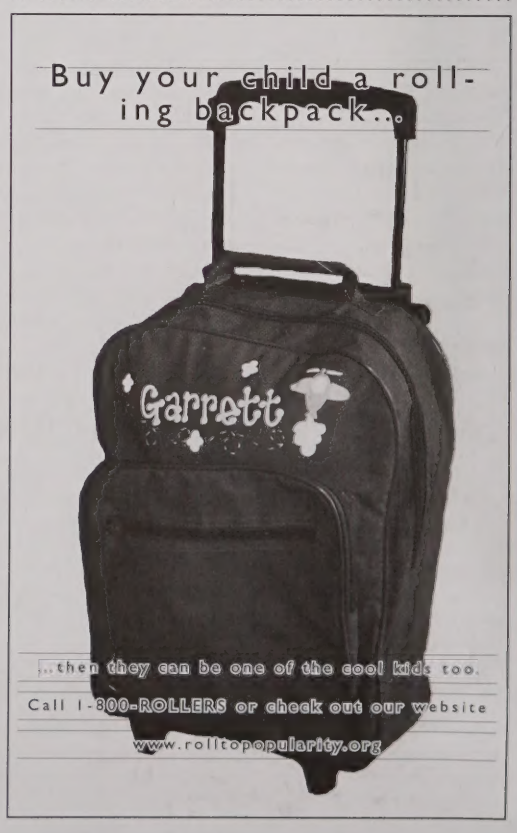
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What's Hot and What's Not

HOT	NOT
Anna's Taqueria: This hidden gem serves cheap, delicious, and oversized burritos… too bad Porter Square is too far away to drive to during a free block!	Those Wobbly Desks and Chairs: They randomly select unlucky students every day and they can ruin a test-taking experience. Beware!
Rolling Backpacks: Sure, some say that they are dorky and hazardous, but rolling backpack owners will have the last laugh when they still have youthful backs as senior citizens.	Jazz Music: If it's not played on Jam'n 94.5, it isn't really worthwhile.
Dick Cheney: A fine man and a fine marksman. (That guy was in the way!)	Walking from Your Car to the School: It couldn't be colder or a bigger waste of time. It's time to replace the math building with a parking lot.
	The Beatles: See "Jazz Music" – no further explanation necessary.

AP Tests Taken to a Whole New Level

By Ada Vance

April is a busy month for many high school students. It is the time when students cram an entire year's worth of course material into their brains by whatever means possible for the AP exams, which take place in early May.

Extra classes are given before and after school. Hundreds of dollars are spent on review materials and tutors. Although most students spend their time and money preparing for the more mainstream AP tests that count for college credit, Lexington High School offers a variety of unique AP courses that the majority of the student body ignores. These classes include AP Frisbee, AP Harry Potter Studies, and AP Napping.

Contrary to popular belief, AP Frisbee is not just a course for mindless jocks who need honors credit. When asked about the rigorousness of AP Frisbee, Junior Jessica Billings said, "Collegeboard expects us to keep up with an extremely extensive list of Frisbee terminology and techniques." Even the most skilled Frisbee players are finding that AP Frisbee requires more than physical brawn. "I would say AP Frisbee is geared more toward scholars, and less toward athletes," said Senior Paul Deutsch.

In AP Harry Potter Studies, students are required not only to read all six of the Harry Potter books, but also to watch at least 3 out of the 4 movies. Students learn where to find bezoars, how to concoct flesh-eating slug repellant, the proper way to ride a broom, and a variety of skills necessary for any wizard. "AP Harry Potter is difficult, but I've found spell-casting to be a crucial skill in high school survival," said Sophomore Larry Jones. "Avada Kedavra gets me out of detention like 'woah.'"

AP Napping is a very misleading name for this rigorous course. Students learn the proper procedures for warming up before doing any strenuous napping, the science of power-napping, and the varying qualities of pillows. "It's great that Collegeboard has taken an activity I willingly participate in every single day and then turned it into a nationwide standardized test," commented Senior Liz Arnold.

So far, these unique and challenging AP courses have received positive feedback from students and parents. "AP Harry Potter took care of a lot of my literature requirements at college," said Brian Robbins, class of 2003.

Collegeboard is introducing several new AP's for the coming year, including AP Lord of the Rings, AP Badminton and the much anticipated AP Tetris.

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Dr. Jones Moonlighting as Famous Artist • FROM PAGE 1

fun. Never would I ever have imagined that kids would resort to desecrating someone's property with cones to get their kicks!" It is no surprise that McKenna's house has been targeted several times by these vandals, as she has long been an outspoken critic of the notorious pastime.

Members of the Coning Posse have long defended their actions, calling coning "a term of endearment" and claiming that their victims wore "the orange badge of courage." Today, the Facebook group message board was abuzz with chatter regarding the arrest of its revered leader; the Coning Posse finally issued a terse statement, saying that Slane was "a martyr for a noble cause," and that "swift retribution is necessary." No doubt police will be looking for a rise in late-night activity, making sure construction sites are heavily guarded. Indeed, the police have promised to fight fire with fire. They vow that more of the Posse's inner leadership ring would be found.

"We still have good leads to follow on Nick Stulck, Peter Lubershane, David Dadgar, Bobby Hammond, and a host of other repeat offenders," reported Casey. "In the end, these coners will be brought to justice." Soon after the press conference, Casey could be seen struggling to enter his police cruiser, the entire vehicle mysteriously wrapped in Caution Tape. The Coning Posse, it seems, fear no one.

Animal Gang Cultures Terrorize School • FROM PAGE 2

However, one member of The Dog Boys, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered these words of wisdom: "Dogs are just awesome, you know? Like, they're snuggly and cute but at the same time they're powerful hunters and they could totally rip your head off if they tried. That's what it's about. The cuddling, but the knowledge that we could totally rip your head off." In response, one Cat Girls member had this to say: "Cats rule, dogs drool."

Mirror on the Wall, Age-old Classic • FROM PAGE 2

nize this little gem," commented Cohen. As we anticipate the opening of this rendition of Snow White, rumors already begin to fly about future adaptations of Cinderella, involving magical mushroom in lieu of pumpkins. We can only eagerly wait to see which childhood memory will be jaded next on the Lexington stage.

Volcanoes, Drugs, Lingerie, and Religion • FROM PAGE 2

for such a prestigious award ceremony. First place was given to the noble "Volcanoes and Baking Soda: One V. Two drops of inegar." Second and third places received a gift certificates to the local ice cream parlor. The projects were V"Chapstick on Pizza: Retaining the Moisture of the Crust" and "Shampoo on Shamu: Which Cleans the Best?"

Mathlete Overcomes Adversity • FROM PAGE 4

able to bond with his classmates over common interests, such as integrals, derivatives, and the many wonderful uses of Pi. "Just the other day, me and [fellow mathlete] Dan Suo tried to memorize as many digits of Pi as we could, it was a blast!"

One of the toughest transitions Gai has had to acclimate himself to is the lack of interest math receives in America. "Us mathletes have to work just as hard as any other athletes, sometimes even harder," said Gai. "Hell, the preseason conditioning for this season featured factoring binomials in under 5 seconds, followed by deriving the quadratic formula using the natural log in under a minute! I bet you not a single football player can do that kind of mathematical exercise." Yet, Mathletes are met with little acclaim, and often are lampooned as being dorks. Gai's inspirational rags to riches story may change that, as more students strive to achieve the same status as Gai, perhaps one day winning a NERD award for themselves.

Offbeat Athlete: Jimmy O'Keefe • FROM PAGE 4

have to jump up off the ground; they say it doesn't make sense to them."

So for now young men like Jimmy and Tom will just have to toil in obscurity while the March Madness of hacky sack tournament games dominates our airwaves. Perhaps the boys should think about bringing the basskits down to say, five feet, so players can just place the ball in them. Better still maybe they should try playing the game with wadded up pieces of paper thrown at waste baskets. And while they're at it why not make all the throws free instead of charging for some. Haven't enough sports been spoiled by money and greed already?

Wordsearch

A	T	O	N	S	I	S	I	H	T
E	L	Z	Z	U	P	L	A	E	R
O	S	K	C	U	L	D	O	O	G
U	O	Y	T	I	G	N	I	V	L
E	H	T	W	O	N	K	L	L	A
I	Y	H	W	N	O	S	A	E	R
B	A	O	D	T	O	N	S	I	T
O	O	F	L	I	R	P	A	E	L
E	W	E	W	S	U	L	P	S	L
Y	Z	A	L	Y	R	E	V	E	R

Words

Σ Trick	Σ Joke	Σ Silly
Σ Ruse	Σ Foolish	Σ Sham
Σ False	Σ Gullible	Σ Con
Σ Game	Σ Funny	Σ Deceive
Σ Bluff	Σ Ploy	Σ Deceit
Σ Prank	Σ Hoax	Σ Gag
	Σ Scam	Σ Stunt

Jazz Rebellion • FROM PAGE 4

less student with hoses. Senior Josiah Reibstein's tuba case was found containing something that resembled a heap of human body parts.

When confronted, Reibstein pointed at the limp human hand protruding from his case. "It's a brand-new type of tuba, made out of body parts..." he offered, before scampering off into the band room.

The question still remains as to what these students plan to do in their rebellion. "This whole thing's just made me depressed," said Junior Ken Ross, a guitarist and member of the Jazz Septet and Ensemble. "I mean, it seems like no one really cares about jazz anymore. Sure, everyone knows Coltrane, but who's familiar with his post-avantgarde period, or Miles Davis's breakout into fusion in the late 70's? It just saddens me that so few students in the school can confidently state what scale mode would best fit over a F# minor half-diminished seven chord."

LHS Jazz Nite 3 will occur on April 7, in the auditorium, at 7:30 PM, if anyone is interested.

Dissonance Abounds in Jazz Dept Rebellion

By Grabin MaGrotch

After months of tension, the Lexington High School jazz department has finally made a statement that it will rebel due to the lack of attention it has been receiving. This climactic outburst against the constraints of a "musically-biased, harmonically deaf" society is the culmination of many months of heavy complaints from "the best ****ing department at this god-damn school!"

Students from the jazz ensembles are angry because their concerts are often lacking an audience, and they have had little recognition of their many awards and achievements. "Last year, we totally swept the Berklee Jazz Festival," said Senior trombonist Kevin Qi. "But the only article on the front page of the Minuteman was the hockey team losing their big game! I mean, who cares about them?"

Qi was later admitted to the hospital with severe bruising all over his body from what the doctors described as "large wooden sticks." "I can't say I'm shocked," said teacher Jeff Leonard, director of the jazz ensemble and combo, and well-known staple of the music department. "We've been neglected since our very inception, and I have to say it's about time someone took a stand against those who've been oppressing us." He then addded. "Good thing it's only students, though, 'cuz then I could get, like, fired or something."

Several members of the award-winning Jazz Ensemble, Combo, and Septet convened outside Commons II on the afternoon of Monday, March 20 to demonstrate their disapproval. Many held signs with slogans such as "Harmonize the Voices of Rebellion," "Working Cats Unite" and "Come to at least one of our concerts, please?"

"This isn't the right way to do it," said Senior Sam Mehr, an active member of the LHS music department. "Jazz isn't a violent music - it's joyful. We should rise above the repressors with peace, not war. I think every problem can be solved with kind words, and in these terrible times the most important thing is for all of us to remain loyal friends to one another, no matter our differences."

Other students have vocalized their worry that the rebellion may turn bloody. "Those jazz kids are all shifty folks," said Senior Don Rauscher. "David Wen already has two prior convictions for manslaughter, and I heard that Kelly Reynolds once helped dump a body in the LHS lake. Malcolm Campbell? I get chills just looking at him."

Naris Ghazarians

Protesting jazz "musicians" Josiah Reibstein, Toby Foreman, Tom Irving, Malcolm Campbell and Jason Rogers stage a rally outside of the band room last Friday afternoon, calling for respect for their beloved music genre.

Sadly, Rauscher's fear may have already reared its ugly head. Many reported that Sophomore Toby Foreman's alto saxophone had blood on its mouthpiece just yesterday morning. A freshman claims to have walked past a room in which Seniors Tom Irving and Jason Rogers were beating a help-

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Offbeat Athlete of the Month: Jimmy O'Keefe

By Pat Mesack

Turn on your TV this time of year and you get an endless array of sports programing. On network TV there is nothing but wall-to-wall NCAA hack sack coverage. On ESPN it's bum tossing, keg rolling, ultimate tiddly winks, chess boxing and No-holds-barred Scrabble. We are a country saturated in big name sports, but what about those lonely folks who play games that hardly anyone has heard of? Don't they deserve some attention too? Well one of those people is Jimmy O'Keefe, a strapping young senior boy at Lexington High School who has taken up a little known sport called Bass-kit-ball.

The game, as O'Keefe describes it, is played on a hardwood gymnasium floor and involves trying to throw a round inflated leather ball through a slightly larger round hoop with strings attached to it. What makes this bass-kit-ball so strange, if not ridiculous, is that the hoop is hung ten feet off the ground clearly out of the reach of normal athletes. We spent one afternoon with O'Keefe and a fellow hoopster (no doubt a form of the word hipster), Tom Henneberry, in the LHS high school gym as they talked about and played this obscure game.

At the outset O'Keefe mentioned that he and Tom were lucky to be able to use the gym that day and could only do so because the school's highly touted hacky sack squad had an away game at Burlington High. O'Keefe began by demonstrating something called a dribble. We were baffled at first because neither Jimmy nor Tom donned bibs in preparation for this dribbling exercise. As it turned out dribbling actually involved bouncing the ball as each player ran up and down the floor. Since this bouncing obviously caused the boys to move more slowly than they otherwise might have, we asked why they didn't just carry the ball with them as they ran. O'Keefe shrugged, unable to provide an explanation for what we saw as a rather silly maneuver.

Once Jimmy reached the part of the floor where the bass-kit was hanging he threw the ball up so that it nestled through the hoop. This seemed to be a rather strange procedure given that there was a step ladder nearby and it would have been easier to just bring the ladder over and climb up to place the ball through the hoop. On the next passage up the floor Jimmy was bumped by Tom when he tried to hurl the ball. He called a "fowl"(though we saw no birds in the gym) and then took a shot called a "free throw." This, of course, led us to assume that there was a monetary charge for the other kinds of shots the boys had taken. We wondered if Bass-kit-ball was really just a new form of sports gambling?

After watching Jimmy and Tom repeat this activity a number of times we began to understand why this bass-kit-ball will never catch on. Still we were patient enough to stick around to interview the boys once they grew tired of bouncing and throwing the round ball. We asked Jim and Tom about the origins of the game and though they weren't entirely sure, Tom thought it had begun in the corporate world where for years men spent their days throwing crumpled up pieces of office stationary at waste baskets. Jimmy said he became fascinated by the game because it was one of the only sports he'd discovered that did not penalize athletes for being tall.

Given the lucrative endorsement contracts being hauled in by diminutive professional tiddly winkers and keg rollers, one certainly had to sympathize with these "vertically challenged" young men.

The boys mentioned that it was becoming more and more difficult to play this new game because interest was waning and places to play were few and far between. "No matter how much we try to interest other kids in this sport, we just can't seem to generate any real enthusiasm," O'Keefe said. Henneberry added despondently, "No one wants to play a game where they

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Struggling Mathlete Overcomes Adversity

By Jenna Talia

With the season of March Madness upon us, the general public has been bombarded by crazy upsets, amazing plays, and the obligatory Cinderella team making its improbable run through the brackets. Yet this year's Cinderella story is not George Mason. Rather, it is the story of a young Korean boy, who came to Lexington with three dollars in his pocket and a dream in his heart; a boy who rose through the ranks of the Math Olympiad World, until he was not only the captain of the Lexington High School Math Team, but also the New England Regional Demigod (NERD) of the year. Today, Sum-Yun Gai can look back on his humble beginnings, and be amazed at what he has accomplished. "When I came to America, I had nothing," reported Gai. "The only person who could see my potential was Sal Rahman, and he really helped me get ahead in life." Rahman, the coach of the "Mathletes" at the high school, raves about Gai's innate ability to reason his way through even the most difficult of problems.

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"Not only is Sum-Yun extremely gifted, but he works his patootie off to help our team," said Rahman. "I'm so proud of what he has managed to do in such a short time."

Of course, all the great success Gai has had in America cannot totally obscure the troubles he had back in Korea. There, where Mathletes are worshipped like baseball or football players are in America, Gai was caught using Ritalin to help enhance his performance. While some consider steroid penalties harsh in American sports, they are nothing compared to Korea. Not only did Gai lose his sponsorships with Texas Instruments, Nokia, and Toyota, but he was practically run out of the country by disillusioned fans who wanted his head. "In Korea, the fans took my doping scandal as a personal insult, as if I had betrayed each and every one of them," said Gai ruefully. "I was lucky to escape with my life." Still, Gai has been working hard to get back on his feet, and has been

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